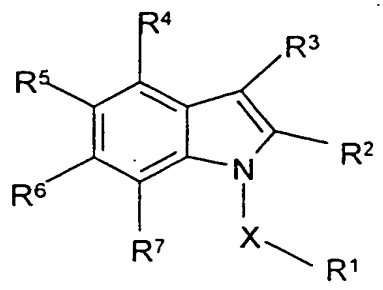
Claims

1. The use of a compound of formula (I)



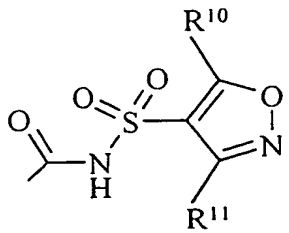
(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, amide or ester thereof;

X is CH_2 or SO_2

R^1 is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl ring;

R^2 is carboxy, cyano, $-C(O)CH_2OH$, $-CONHR^8$, $-SO_2NHR^9$, tetrazol-5-yl, SO_3H, or a group of formula (VI)



(VI)

where R^8 is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cyano, hydroxy, $-SO_2R^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or haloalkyl, or R^8 is a group-$(CHR^{13})_r$-COOH where r is an integer of 1-3 and each R^{13} group is independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl; R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl, optionally substituted aryl such as optionally substituted phenyl or optionally subtituted heteroaryl such as 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl groups, or a group COR^{14} where R^{14} is alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or haloalkyl; R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl, particularly C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 is a group OR^{15}, $S(O)_qR^{15}$, $NHCOR^{16}$, $NHSO_2R^{16}$, $(CH_2)_sCOOH$, $(CH_2)_tCONR^{17}R^{18}$, $NR^{17}R^{18}$, $SO_2NR^{17}R^{18}$ or optionally substituted alkenyl, where q is 0, 1 or 2, s is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, t is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, R^{15} is a substituted alkyl or cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted heteroaryl group , R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl and R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl and optionally substituted heteroaryl, with the proviso that at least one of R^{17} or R^{18} is other than hydrogen, or R^{16} and R^{17} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring which optionally contains further heteroatoms; and

R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, a functional group or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl groups or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups, provided that R^4 is other than a group , $OR^{18'}$, $S(O)_mR^{18'}$, $NR^{19}R^{20}$, $C(O)NR^{19}R^{20}$, $NHCOR^{18}$, $NHSO_2R^{18}$or $OCONR^{19}R^{20}$ or an alkyl group subsituted by OR^{18}, $S(O)_mR^{18}$, $NR^{19}R^{20}$ where R^{18} , R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, or R^{19} and R^{20} together with the atom to which they are attached, form an optionally substituted heterocyclyl ring as defined above which optionally contains further heteroatoms such as $S(O)_n$, oxygen and nitrogen, m is 0 or an integer of 1-3 and $R^{18'}$ is a substituted hydrogen-containing alkyl group,

for use in the preparation of a medicament for the inhibition of monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 and/or RANTES induced chemotaxis.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein in the compound of formula (I), R^4 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, alkoxy, aryloxy or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group or optionally substituted heterocyclic group.

3. The use according to any one of the preceding claims Particular groups R^3 include OR^{15}, $S(O)_qR^{15}$, $NHCOR^{16}$, $NHSO_2R^{16}$, $SO_2NR^{17}R^{18}$ where q, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} are as defined in claim 1.

4. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^3 is a group of formula $-O(CH_2)_a[(CHOH)(CH_2)_b]_d CH_2OH$ where a is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, b is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 3, and d is 0, or 1.

5. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^1 is 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 3-fluoro-4-chlorophenyl, 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl or 2,3-dichloropyrid-5-yl.

6. The use according to any one of the preceding claims where X is CH_2.

7. A compound for use in therapy, said compound comprising a compound of formula (1A) which is a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 subject to the following provisos:

(i) when R^2 is carboxy or a salt or amide thereof, at least three of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^3 is $S(O)qR^{15}$, R^{15} is other than C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by carboxy or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

(ii) when R^3 is a group $NHCOR^{16}$ or $NHSO_2R^{16}$, R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl; and

(iii) where R^3 is a group SR^{14} where R^{14} is 2-quinolylmethyl, R^2 is COOH or an ethyl ester thereof, each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, R^6 is other than 2-quinolylmethyl.

8. A pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of formula (IA) as defined in claim 7 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A compound of formula (IB) which is a compound of formula (IA) as defined in claim 7, subject to the following further provisos:

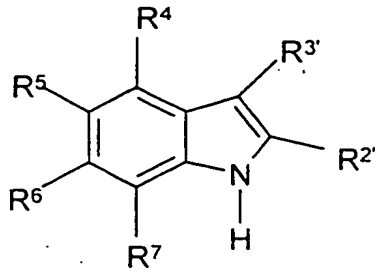
(iv) where R^3 is a group COOH or CH_2COOH, R^2 is COOH and each of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, R^1 is other than unsubsituted phenyl; and

(v) where R^3 is a group CH_2COOH, R^2 is COOH and each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, R^6 is other than methoxy; and

(vi) when R^3 is OR^{15} or $S(O)_qR^{15}$, R^{15} is other than C_{1-6} haloalkyl: and

(vii) when R^2 is $COOCH_2CH_3$, each of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^3 is other than a group $CH=CH(CN)_2$.

10. A method of preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which method comprises reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

where R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in relation to formula (I), $R^{2'}$ is a group R^2 as defined in relation to formula (I) or a protected form thereof, and $R^{3'}$ is a group R^3 as defined in relation to formula (I) or a precursor thereof ; with compound of formula (VIII)

$$R^1\text{-}X\text{-}Z^1$$

(VIII)

where R^1 and X are as defined in relation to formula (I) and Z^1 is a leaving group; and thereafter if desired or necessary carrying out one or more of the following steps:

(i) changing a precursor group $R^{3'}$ to a group R^3 or a group R^3 to a different such group;

(ii) removing any protecting group from $R^{2'}$.